

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 has been amended. The attached sheet of formal drawing replace the original sheet including Figs. 1.

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. All claims were rejected.

In a Second Preliminary Amendment filed on April 15, 2002, Applicants cancelled claims 1-2 without prejudice, amended claims 3-14, added new claims 15-17, and amended the specification paragraph at page 5, line 12-13. These amendments and claims 15-17 were not reviewed by the Examiner prior to the Office Action mailed November 1, 2005 to which this Amendment responds.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for lacking proper labeling. In response, a replacement drawing Fig. 1 is included herewith. New reference numbers 19, 20, 21, and 22 were added to indicate the locations of a transparent (19) and a regenerative (20) transponders, a warning signal (21), and telemetry data (22).

The specification was objected to for not having proper support for subject matter in claims 10-14. The specification paragraph on page 5, line 20 to page 6, line 13 was amended to add description of a transparent and a regenerative transponders as referred to in claims 10 and 11 (now indicated in the replacement Fig. 1 with reference numbers 19 and 20), that the time signal can be digital as referred to in claim 12, and a warning signal and telemetry data as referred to in claims 13 and 14 (now indicated in the replacement Fig. 1 with reference numbers 21 and 22).

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities on page 5, lines 12-13. These informalities were corrected in a replacement paragraph provided with the Second Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 1-14 were objected to because of informalities in claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2 were cancelled in the Second Preliminary Amendment. In that Amendment new independent claims 15 and 17 were added and claims 3-14 were amended to depend upon claim 15. Claims 15 and 17 do not include informalities referred to by the Examiner.

Claims 1-14, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. With regard to cancelled claims 1 and 2, these claims were cancelled and claims 15 and 17 were added in the Second Preliminary Amendment. Claims 15

and 17 do not include language referenced by the Examiner. The specification paragraph on page 3, lines 15-17 was amendment to add explanation of step (d) of cancelled claim 1 as requested by the Examiner.

With regard to claims 3-4 and claims 7-9, the specification paragraph on page 2, lines 10-17 was amended to add definitions of terms FDMA, CDMA, and TDMA and a description of the “multiplex method”. The variations of the division multiple access (DMA) and access methods are industry standards and are well known to those skilled in the art (see International Engineering Consortium web site www.iec.org).

Claims 1-14, are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner identified elements in claims 1 and 2 deemed to be unclear. In response the following clarifications are provided.

The specification paragraphs on page 3, lines 19-22 was amended to add a definition for the system related correction data; on page 5, line 20 to page 6, line 13 to add a definition for "the remote clock is synchronized in state and rate"; and on page 5, lines 9-13 to add explain the purpose of "power reserve". As with regard to elements (d), (e), and (f), claim 2 was rewritten and entered as claim 17. Claim 17 does not recite a "power reserve" and does not include matters discussed by the Examiner.

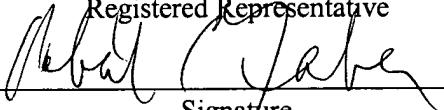
Independent Claims 15 and 17 were previously presented in the Second Preliminary Amendment filed on April 15, 2002. Claims 15 and 17 were not examined or rejected in the present Office Action. They are believed to be patentable. Claims 3-14 and 16 depend directly from previously presented independent claim 15 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in claim 15.

The claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the present application is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on January 17, 2006:

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Respectfully submitted,



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January 17, 2006

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RCF:JK:mjb:jl:ck